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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief
United States Secret Service

SUBJECT: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

1. According to entries for late October 1959 in Lee Harvey OSWALD's "Historic Diary," he attempted suicide in Moscow on 21 October 1959 by cutting his left wrist. In connection with our efforts to assist the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy by providing information which might be helpful in interpreting available materials relating to OSWALD's activities abroad, we have noted the entry with regard to attempted suicide, consider it important and one which might be subject to verification.

2. It will be appreciated if you will advise whether any of your officers can provide direct evidence based on personal observation of the wrist of OSWALD, specifically as to whether there was evidence of former cutting thereof by a scar or scars. We would also appreciate any additional information on this point which you may have acquired from others who may have had an opportunity to observe the wrist of OSWALD in the course of investigations in this matter.

3. Copies of this memorandum are being provided to Mr. J. Lee Rankin, Counsel for the Commission, and the FBI through liaison channels. We would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Document Number 1140-425F
for FOIA Review on SEP 1976

(Signed) Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

cc: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Mr. J. Lee Rankin, Esq.

17 February 1964
CI/SIG/O'Neal:fb

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